



Question to the Board

Establishment of the Joint Pathology Center

RESEARCH – PREVENTION - HEALTH



Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission

Recommended the disestablishment of all elements of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP)

- Except National Medical Museum and Tissue Repository.
- Armed Forces Medical Examiner, DNA Registry, and Accident Investigation to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.
- Establish a Program Management Office to coordinate pathology results, contract administration, and quality assurance and control DoD second opinion consults worldwide
- BRAC rationale for AFIP's disestablishment was based on premise that pathology capabilities would be absorbed by other Department of Defense (DoD), federal, and civilian facilities and on DoD's future reliance of the civilian market for second opinion pathology consults.

The President accepted the Commission's recommendations Congress allowed them to pass into law on November 19, 2005.



2008 National Defense Authorization Act

Directs the President to establish a
Joint Pathology Center

- To help meet the federal government's need for pathology consultation, pathology education, diagnostic pathology research, and preservation of pathology specimens.
- At a minimum the
 - Diagnostic pathology consultation services in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary sciences
 - Pathology education, to include graduate medical education, including residency and fellowship programs and continuing medical education
 - Diagnostic pathology research
 - Maintenance and continued modernization of the Tissue Repository and, as appropriate, utilization of the Repository in conducting the activity described above

Center in DoD unless the President determined another agency is better suited.



ASD(HA)

- “I would like the Defense Health Board to review DoD’s strategic plan for the establishment of the Joint Pathology Center and provide its opinion on the plan’s appropriateness and feasibility.”
- “In its review, the Board should keep in mind the BRAC Commission report and subsequent legislation. I welcome any recommendations that would enhance DoD’s plan.”

The President must determine by July 2008 whether the Center should be established in DoD.